

Children's Newspaper

Every Wednesday—Threepence

FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE

No. 1762, December 27, 1952

Wishing You All a Very Happy Christmas

MEET MR PASTRY IN PANTOMIME

A lovable character talks to the C N about his ups and downs

MANY thousands of people who have followed the career of Richard Hearne in the role of the well-meaning but accident-prone Mr. Pastry on the television screen will be delighted at the opportunity of seeing him in the same part on the pantomime stage.

Twenty years ago Richard Hearne first appeared in pantomime as the captain in Dick Whittington. This Christmas, at a London theatre, he is playing in Dick Whittington once again, but this time he has been demoted to mate.

"I was engaged as Mr. Pastry for the role of captain," Richard Hearne told our correspondent, Edward Lanchbery, "and then we realised that there was a technical hitch. Mr. Pastry couldn't be a captain. It is always the mate, of course, who is known as Mister—like Mister Christian, for instance. So Mr. Pastry had to give up one ring of gold braid and sign on as mate instead."

Although it was many years before he was to be so named, Mr. Pastry really owed his origin to that Dick Whittington pantomime in 1932.

FELL INTO AUDITION

In this show, Richard Hearne did one or two "accidental" falls and these attracted the attention of Leslie Henson. As a result he was invited to attend an audition for a new musical comedy.

"I was thrilled," Richard Hearne continued. "I had always wanted to be a musical comedy star, and I thought this was the chance where my dream came true."

"I arrived at the theatre all ready to sing and dance. Instead I was shown a flight of steps and told to fall down them."

This Richard Hearne did quite easily. The son of an acrobat, he had been brought up in a circus, and at the age of nine had himself appeared in the ring both with his

father's troupe and as a tumbler with the clowns.

The bitter blow came when Leslie Henson said: "Yes, you'll do fine. Now you play the part of an old man of 70. You are the old family retainer and wear morning coat and black-striped trousers..."

Perhaps clinging still to the dream of being a dashing musical comedy hero, Richard Hearne gave himself a colonel-type moustache with the ends curled smartly up. But it was not a bit of use. He had to drink so much cold tea in the part that the moustache quickly lost its curl and hung down over his lips. And that is the bedraggled moustache now always associated with Mr. Pastry.

Richard Hearne's interpretation of the old family retainer was an immediate success, and in the following years there was seldom a musical comedy playing in London without this type of role specially written in for him.

ACROBATIC DANCE

In one of these musical comedies a big scene change was involved, and Richard Hearne was asked to amuse the audience with a three-minute acrobatic dance in front of the curtain whilst it was taking place.

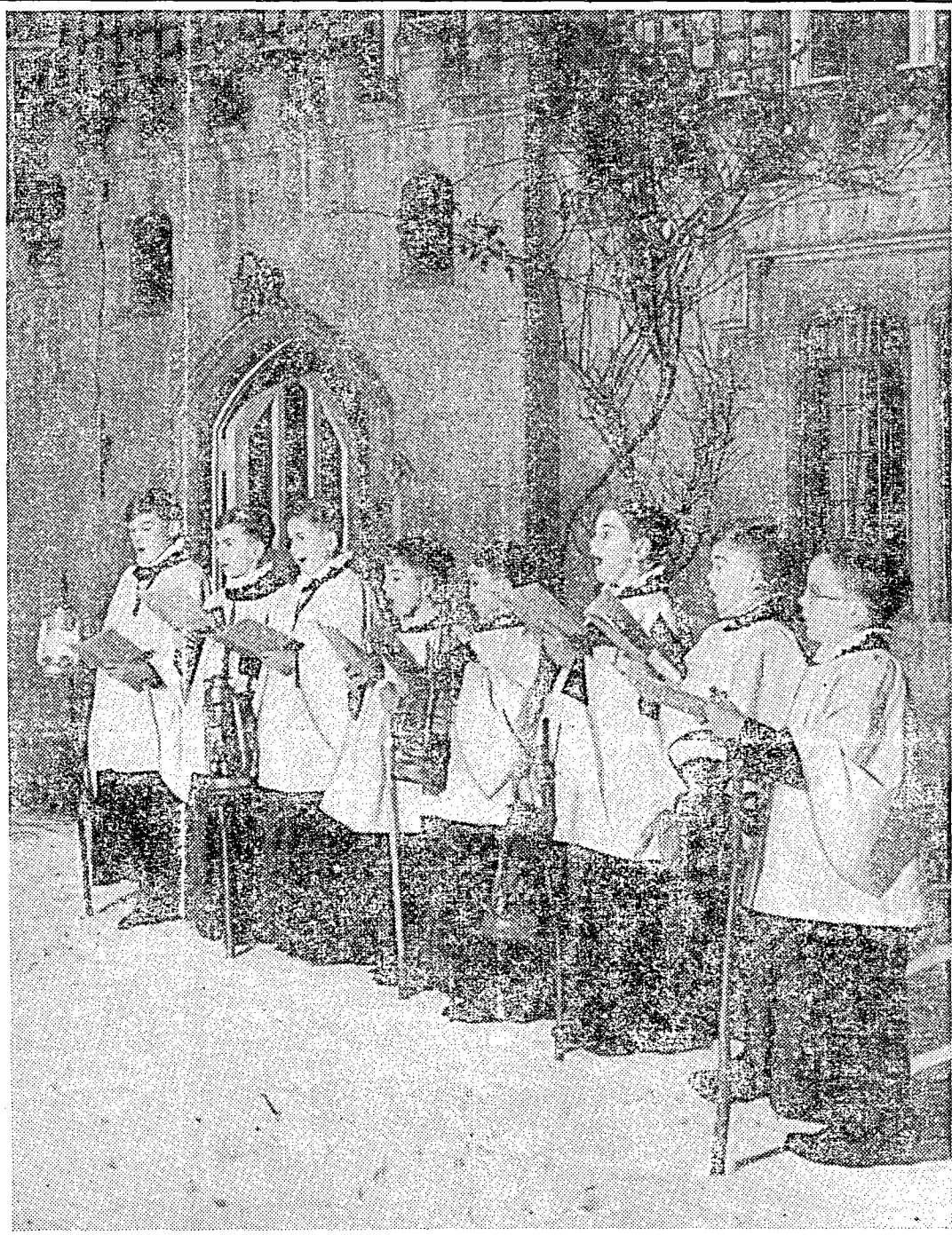
With so little space available Richard Hearne thought the turn was going to look rather bleak. Then he remembered how Tommy Newell as a pantomime dame had danced The Lancers with himself.

Tommy Newell was dead, so Richard Hearne wrote to Mrs. Newell, who replied that she had no objection to his adopting her husband's act.

The Lancers, of course, fitted the old gentleman even better than a pantomime dame, and the act was so successful that it became a regular part of Richard Hearne's stock-in-trade.

For 13 years Richard Hearne's old gentleman of 70 remained nameless; and then in September 1946, when he had his usual type

Continued on page 2



Singing the joyful tidings in the good old-fashioned way

Thank you for your voices,
thank you—
Your most sweet voices.

KEEPING IN TRAINING

Passengers got out of their train and pushed it recently when they found that frost had stopped it running! It was the electric three-coach train which runs along the pier at Hythe, Hampshire.

THINNEST GRINDSTONE

The world's thinnest grindstone, made in America, is 3½ inches in diameter and only six-thousandths of an inch thick. It is used to grind the slits in the points of pens.

SEA-DOG'S MEMORIES

An old sea-dog who intends passing the evening of his days contemplating Davy Jones's Locker (from which he has three times narrowly escaped) is Mr. F. J. Seaton of Australia. He has settled at Portland in Victoria so that he may always be within sight of the sea.

Mr. Seaton's first narrow squeak came when he was 15 and was shipwrecked off Cornwall. Unable to swim, he kept afloat by means of two balloons tied together.

His next escape came in the Titanic disaster of 1912. He was engineer's storekeeper in the great liner when she struck an iceberg in the Atlantic.

He was "third time lucky" during the First World War, when the Submarine AE2 sank to the bed of the Dardanelles. Mr. Seaton got out through the Davis Hatch.

Now he can sit on the shore and wander down a sea-lane of memory.

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Mr Pastry looks in

ISRAEL ASTONISHES THE WORLD

By the C.N. Diplomatic Correspondent

THE story of the new State of Israel, now four-and-a-half years old, is one to astonish historians and students of human progress, because nothing quite like it has been seen before. From all quarters of the world, by plane and ship, have come new citizens. Since May 1948, when Israel was proclaimed an independent State, some 700,000 immigrants inspired by the Zionist ideal have entered the country.

The dream of the Jewish people seemed at last to be coming true; they were returning to the country that was home to them, the home that down through the centuries of their dispersal they had never forgotten.

What happened then, and still continues to happen, is indeed phenomenal. A most determined struggle to build homes and make work for the new arrivals—the majority of them destitute—is going on today with increasing intensity.

RECEPTION IN CAMPS

In tents, tin huts, and wooden shacks, the eagerly-welcomed citizens from overseas join in the task of building a State. Usually they are in these reception camps for about a year before a permanent home can be found for them.

Settlements, where productive work in new factories and on farms increases the momentum of "nation-building," have been carefully organised by the Government. Each unit has nurseries and schools, doctors, and a religious centre. Everywhere there is discipline, order, and the shrewd, practical way of life ever characteristic of the Jewish people.

Even before the factories are finished, while the girders are still showing and the builders are still on their platforms and ladders, the new industrial workers are busy. All over Israel this is happening—in Galilee, in the Negeb, on the outskirts of Haifa, Tel Aviv, Tiberias, and Beersheba.

A four-year programme of road-making, town-building, and tree-planting is in progress. All the time the newcomers are hoping that others of their race will eventually be able to join them, and especially those living behind the Iron Curtain. For, alas, a trend toward persecution has now appeared in Czechoslovakia and Rumania.

MR. PASTRY IN PANTOMIME

(Continued from page 1).

of role in "Big Boy," the plot made it necessary for him to be named. Mr. Pastry they called him in that play, and Mr. Pastry he has been ever since.

Through the years the character has developed from the old family retainer until now Mr. Pastry is old Mr. Everyman.

"He is a caricature," said Richard Hearne, "of every kind-hearted, well-meaning old gentleman who tries to help everybody but always makes a mess of things."

Through television Mr. Pastry has become a lovable friend to both the children and grandchildren of the audiences who first

Amid all its hopes of future prosperity, however, the new State also has an ever-present feeling of insecurity which influences the policy of its Government. On three sides Israel has antagonistic neighbours in the Arab States which have threatened from time to time to bring about her downfall.

So far Israel has maintained a neutral attitude in most world affairs. Lately, however, she has realised the importance of the Middle East Defence Pact proposed by the Western Powers, and though she would not take part in it for the time being, Israel would offer few difficulties to the arrangements.

This new State maintains its calm. Earlier this month Dr. Isaac Ben-Zvi was elected Israel's second President, succeeding the beloved Dr. Chaim Weizmann.

NEW PRESIDENT

Dr. Ben-Zvi, who was born in Russia, settled in Palestine in 1907. During the First World War he fought in a British regiment, and our Government know and respect him as a statesman of ability and foresight. At the Coronation of King George VI he represented Palestine's Jews. At Queen Elizabeth's Coronation in June he will, it is hoped, represent the new Israel.

His election suggests better prospects for more understanding between his own Party, known as Mapai, and the Opposition Party, called Mapam. Both are Socialist, but the Mapam have been bitterly extremist. Their political clashes have sometimes looked like hindering the rapid expansion of the State.

But because the choice of Dr. Ben-Zvi was also supported by Mapam there are hopes in Israel that his leadership will produce even more astonishing results than those already achieved.

set the old gentleman on the road to fame 20 years ago.

One difference between the reactions of his audience is that younger children particularly hate to see him hurt; and after each appearance in the Children's TV Hour there is a regular flood of letters anxiously asking whether he hurt himself very badly when he fell down—and if he is better now.

Mr. Pastry's performance is the same whether he is playing to children or adults.

"There is no need to be any different," Richard Hearne explained, "because I find that children are just as grown-up in their humour as grown-ups are childish."

United Nations is all these things

We can all be proud that a member of one of the Commonwealth countries—Mr. Lester Pearson of Canada—has achieved the honour of election as President of the United Nations.

He marked his accession to high office with words which must find an echo in every heart.

The United Nations, declared Mr. Pearson, "is a world platform where grievances, real or imagined, can be voiced and heard. It is a medium for world-wide co-operation between countries at different levels of technical progress and economic development."

"It is a place where tensions between countries or groups of countries can be and have been held in check and prevented from exploding in open conflict. It is a meeting place—indeed, almost the only remaining meeting place—where the States which stand and face each other across the Great Divide can at least talk to—or at—one another."

The United Nations President has answered in forthright fashion the pessimists who belittle the organisation he now leads.

Christmas offering



A sailor aboard the British Railways steamer Whitstable offers bunches of mistletoe through the porthole at Southampton.

HOLIDAY TALKS

How Science Has Grown will be the subject of lectures to be given to boys and girls during the holidays at the Royal Institution in London by the Director of the Science Museum, Mr. F. Sherwood Taylor.

Mr. Sherwood Taylor will trace the development of man's scientific knowledge from sometime after 4000 B.C., when the movements of the stars were first recorded, down to the discovery of nuclear fission. The lectures will be given on December 27 and 30, and January 1, 3, 6 and 8.

Holiday lectures for young people are also being given at the Royal Society of Arts in London, where on December 31 Lieut.-Colonel David Wolfe-Murray (Fish-Hawk) will talk about Birds, and on January 2 Mr. D. A. Spencer will lecture on Photography.

News from Everywhere

IN CASE

A Christmas present of a cricket set from Australia to Prince Charles was accompanied by a pane of glass and a note saying: "In case of accidents to Palace windows."

Mr. G. C. Hinchcliffe recently motored from London to Cape Town in 13 days 9 hours 6 minutes, beating his own record for the journey by over eight days.

The 7723-ton Spanish ship Monte Urguiola became the largest vessel ever to sail up the Thames past Tower Bridge when she docked with a cargo of tomatoes from the Canary Islands.

Two pairs of swans have been presented by the Vintners' Company to Bromley (Kent) Corporation for their parks, and two pairs of royal swans from the Thames have been presented to Hastings.

UPSET

A man had a ducking in the River Thames at Twickenham when a porpoise overturned his dinghy.

Stratford, Ontario, is to have a Shakespeare festival next July. The plays will be acted on an Elizabethan-type stage now being built.

Some 5,500,000 greetings telegrams were sent during the first full year of their re-introduction.

Tram conductors in Berlin will announce the stops with the aid of microphones.

PUDDINGS FOR SAILORS

Christmas puddings to be eaten at the Royal Naval Barracks at Chatham will contain 120 lbs. of fruit, 168 eggs, 23 lbs. of sugar, 40 pints of milk, and 200 sixpences.

Mr. Eric Shipton, who led three Everest expeditions, has been appointed Warden of the Outward Bound Mountain School, at Eskdale, Cumberland.

Eighteen-year-old Keith Hopkins of Brentwood School, Essex, will soon be in American representing the youth of Great Britain at a conference. The trip is a prize he won in an essay competition sponsored by a New York newspaper.

An 18th-century Chinese dinner service fetched £750 at a London auction sale.

THIS ONE GOT AWAY

A large sunfish about seven feet across was discovered floundering in the heavy breakers on the beach at Great Yarmouth recently. Efforts to pull it ashore failed when a rope broke, and it was washed out to sea.

The longest railway bridge in Europe—the Moerdyk, stretching 4500 feet across the Hollands Deep between Dordrecht and North Brabant—is to be replaced. Completed in 1871, it was badly damaged during the war.

More than 2000 boys and girls belonging to the St. John Ambulance Brigade in various parts of Britain and the Commonwealth will attend a Coronation Camp next year at North Ockenden, Essex.

DINNER BY PARACHUTE

Christmas dinner for the crews of the two weather-ships in the North Atlantic is being dropped by parachute. The men will take turns at table, for somebody must always be on air-sea rescue duty.

While visiting Worcester Cathedral a year ago a Mr. Smith of Sydenham, London, noticed that a carved oak panel in the Bishop's Throne had been damaged by vandals. He offered to carve a new panel similar to the original, and his gift is now ready to be installed.

Special Coronation savings stamps are being prepared for next year.

W. W. WARMING UP

Members of the Vienna Ice Revue Orchestra will have electrically-heated chairs for the season's outdoor performances.

The first export order for British underwater television equipment has been received in this country from Yugoslavia. It will be used for inspection work in Adriatic ports.

Trees and flowering shrubs are to be planted in Leicestershire to hide the unsightly slag heaps near coal mines.

A bird observatory has been set up at Dungeness, Kent, completing a chain of them along the coast from Fair Isle to Jersey.

A works canteen is to be used as a temporary church at Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire.

A radish nearly two feet long was grown by Mr. W. Tschuy in his back garden at Hendon, Middlesex.



Can you do
2 good turns
at once?

Mother sometimes gives you an odd copper when you do a job for her and this is how you can turn one good turn into two and help the N.S.P.C.C. to help unhappy children. Save up these coppers and, when you've collected 2/6, send it in with the form below, which you should cut out and fill in. This will make you a member of the League of Pity, the Children's Branch of the N.S.P.C.C. The League will then send you a Blue Bird Badge to keep and wear and, on loan, a Blue Egg in which to put your League savings. You can be sure that every penny you earn or collect will help the N.S.P.C.C. to make some poor, ill-treated boy or girl happy. That's a worthwhile target, isn't it?



SEND THIS COUPON NOW

TO THE LEAGUE OF PITY, VICTORY HOUSE, LEICESTER SQUARE, W.C.2
Please enrol me as a Member. I enclose P.O. for 2/6.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS

The Children's Newspaper, December 27, 1952

THE LIGHTHOUSE STEVENSONS

A family's long connection with lighthouse construction has just ended with the resignation of the Clyde Lighthouses Trust's engineer, Mr. D. Alan Stevenson.

His great-great-grandfather, Robert Stevenson, built the lighthouse on Little Cumbrac in 1792. This was Scotland's second lighthouse and the first to replace the old open coal beacon, not so far removed from the coastal beacons which gave warning of the approach of the Spanish Armada.

Thus Robert Stevenson later became the creator of Scotland's lighthouse system, with no fewer than 20 lighthouses to his credit. On one of his voyages of inspection in 1814 he was accompanied by Sir Walter Scott, who praised him highly in his *Journal*.

His three sons, David, Alan, and Thomas (father of the renowned Robert Louis Stevenson) continued his good work.

YOUNG HOLIDAY DEBATERS

Thorny problems will be debated by the 3000 boys and girls who attend the Christmas Holiday Lectures and Discussions organised by the Council for Education in World Citizenship.

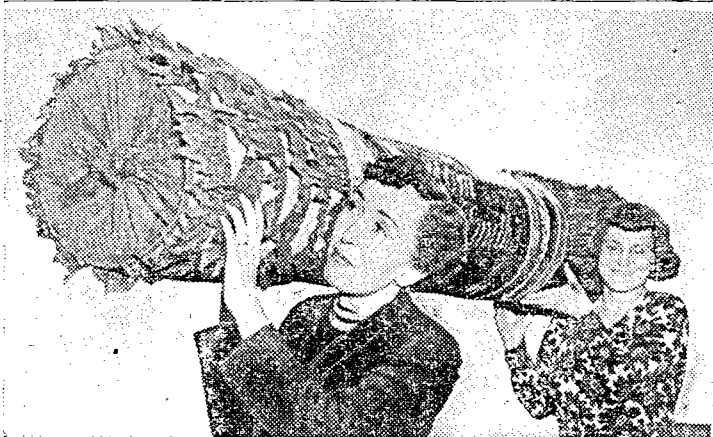
Among many matters they will discuss are: whether Spain and Yugoslavia should be admitted to a European Community, whether Germany should be re-armed, how the schools can contribute to European understanding, and what preparations one should make for a journey abroad in order to contribute most to European understanding.

These sessions for "Tomorrow's Citizens" will be opened at the Central Hall, Westminster, on December 30 by Mr. Anthony Eden, and will continue until January 2. Well-known people from different countries will give talks and face the queues of eager young questioners.

GOLF WITHOUT TEARS

A new plastic golf ball is less than one-twelfth the weight of a normal golf ball, yet it looks and feels just like an ordinary one.

It is intended for practice, for owing to its lightness even the heaviest drive will propel it only a short distance. It can therefore be used safely indoors.



Giant Christmas cracker

Christmas is sure to go with a bang when this giant cracker goes off. It was made at a London factory.

ISLE OF FREE DOGS

People in the Chatham Islands who have never paid dog licences will now be required to do so.

These islands belong to New Zealand, but when dog taxes were introduced into the Dominion, in 1896, the Chatham Islands' dog-owners were outraged at the idea and refused to pay a penny.

In New Zealand this was considered open rebellion, and it was even suggested that troops should be sent; but in the end nothing was done.

With the passing of the years the habit of paying taxes has gradually crept into the Chatham Islands, and it is now believed that the inhabitants are so accustomed to it that they will not notice a trifling addition.

So in his first proclamation as the new Governor-General of New Zealand, Sir Willoughby Norrie has directed that dog taxes must be paid in the Chatham Islands.

Dancing champion

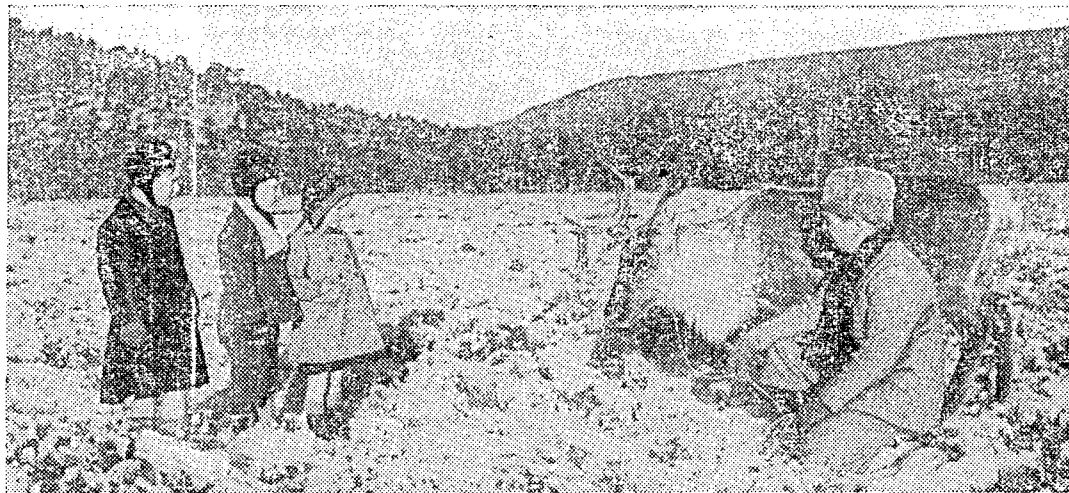


Shirley Ann Macpherson, aged 12, of Carshalton, Surrey, ties on her ballet shoes watched by Rusty, her scalyham. Not long ago Shirley won the Junior Cup in the All-England Dancing Competition organised on behalf of the Sunshine Fund for Blind Babies.

THIS KIND WORLD

Every day, as she has done for the past nine years, 86-year-old Mrs. Grubb, who was crippled some years ago in a road accident, wheels her chair to the corner of a busy New York street. There for an hour she sells newspapers from a stand while the news vendor, a disabled ex-serviceman, has his lunch.

Her kindness is its own reward.



FIRST SINGERS OF SILENT NIGHT

The strains of a carol beloved by Christians everywhere — Silent Night, Holy Night—were first heard in the Austrian village of Oberndorf, near Salzburg, on Christmas Eve 134 years ago. Musicians will fittingly celebrate the occasion again this year.

The words were written by the village priest, Franz Mohr, and the tune that has carried them round the world was composed by the village schoolmaster, Franz Gruber, whose grave at Hallein was recently repaired.

Franz Mohr's villagers first sang Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht, accompanied by Herr Gruber's violin, the church organ having been put out of action by mice.

UNDER THE RED SEA

"You just don't let sharks see you're frightened. If you come up against one underwater you have to swim straight at him, as if you were going to attack him. Sharks aren't used to that sort of attitude."

The speaker is Dr. Hans Hass, and his method of dealing with sharks seems to work, for this adventurer-scientist is still alive to tell one of the most astounding tales ever written. Do not miss this story; it is in Britain's Most Interesting Magazine, *WORLD DIGEST*, on sale now, 1s. 3d.

1000 M.P.H. RAILWAY

The world's fastest railway train carries no passengers and has a track no more than two miles long.

This queer train is, in fact, a rocket-powered sledge used for testing aircraft shapes and parachutes. It runs on rails because that is the best way of keeping it under control.

The rocket motors, which burn out very quickly, accelerate the sledge up to a speed approaching 1000 m.p.h. in about two seconds. A water brake is used to stop the sledge at the end of its run.

PINOCCHIO ON THE STAGE

About 85 children will be performing in the Cygnet Company's Christmas play at the Rudolf Steiner Theatre, London, from December 27 to January 3.

The play, specially produced for young audiences, is Pinocchio, adapted by Angela Bull from Carlo Collodi's immortal story of a wooden puppet that came to life.

Highland reindeer

Mr. Michel Utsi introduces a reindeer he has just noosed to children visiting the Scottish reindeer reserve at Rothiemurchus.

V.C.'S FIGHT TO SAVE HIS CHURCH

The Revd. Noel Mellish, V.C., who was born on Christmas Eve 72 years ago, has been making great efforts to save his ancient church from the ravages of the death watch beetle. He is Vicar of the Somerset church of St. Dunstan, at Baltonsborough, where St. Dunstan is said to have worshipped as a boy.

For years the death watch beetle worked unseen to destroy its old oak beams and carved mouldings. Now Noel Mellish and his little band of parishioners are working hard to raise money for repairs.

CRACKING CONCRETE QUIETLY

The quickest way to break up big slabs of concrete or stone is to blow them up with an explosive charge. A slower alternative, the pneumatic pick, is also very noisy.

A machine is now available to produce the same result without the noise. A hole is drilled in the slab and an expanding metal tube is inserted. By pumping water into this tube a terrific pressure is built up, until suddenly the block of concrete gives way and splits.

ALL DONE BY SALVAGE

To raise money to form a drum-and-bugle band of their own, the 48 members of the 138th London Company of the Boys' Brigade collected in one year nearly five tons of waste-paper and over 10,000 jam jars.



There's lovely honey in

OWBRIDGE'S

LUNG TONIC

Ask Mother to give it to
you next time you
get a cold or a cough



1/7
PER BOTTLE
FAMILY SIZE
3/11



There are also a
few sugar-coated
pastilles for very
good boys
and girls



☆ Pastilles 1/- a tube

RAILWAY TRACK FAULT-FINDER



Engineers at work in the Mauzin track-recording coach

A railway "detective" coach, equipped to discover places on the track that are not as smooth as they should be, has been borrowed from the French National Railways, and brought here on the train-ferry.

The Mauzin coach—so-called after its designer—looks somewhat like an ordinary railway carriage, but has 16 wheels instead of 8.

Inside the coach is a table over which moves a strip of paper about eight inches wide. Seven stylus pens rest on the paper and are connected by wires and pulleys to the coach's axles and also to its "feeler discs," which touch the inside of the rails.

When the Mauzin is moving the pens draw continuous lines on the strip of paper, and these lines reveal any faults in the track, such as sleepers not properly packed with ballast, levels of rails not exactly right, and so on.

The distance travelled is also accurately shown, so that a railway engineer can tell at a glance the position of any irregularity in the permanent way.

A Swiss track-testing coach may also be tried here. British Railways want to find the best equipment for keeping our lines smooth. They have for many years used a portable recording machine which can be taken into any coach.

NO WAITING ON THIS AIR FERRY

A remarkable new loading system is now speeding air freight across Cook Strait, the 15-mile-wide channel dividing New Zealand's North and South Islands.

A Bristol Freighter lands, unloads six tons of cargo, takes on a similar consignment, and is airborne again—all in 20 minutes!

Engineers of the New Zealand Railways devised the system. Two sets of railway lines lie 30 feet apart, and along them travel—at right angles to the track—two long, low, electrically-driven trolleys.

Large flat trays are carried on the trolleys, each capable of bearing three tons of cargo. They can be raised or lowered to the level of the plane's entrance; together, they exactly fit into its hold.

As the Freighter lands it taxis to this novel railway, halting against special chocks. The nose-

doors swing open, while the two trolleys—one empty, the other carrying goods—move in from either side.

By means of an endless chain, the cargo for unloading rolls out on its tray, straight to the waiting trolley. As this glides back along the track to the road lorries, the fresh cargo advances on its trolley to the aircraft's nose.

A few moments later, the cargo is firmly fixed in the hold—special buffers hold it firm—the doors close, and the Freighter speeds down the runway.

This ever-busy air ferry has eliminated a growing shipping bottleneck across the gleaming Cook Strait. Breakages and damage have been markedly reduced, and the service is cheaper.

It is hoped soon to augment the service with more Freighters.



By Ernest Thomson, our Radio and Television Correspondent

At Sandringham

AMONG the countless millions who will hear the Queen make her first Christmas Day broadcast, none will listen more intently than a greying, middle-aged BBC engineer whose task it is to ensure against the slightest chance of a technical hitch.

Mr. R. H. Wood has been journeying to Sandringham every Christmas Eve for more than 20 years. With his assistant, Mr. Eddie Woods, he spends half the night checking the triple lines and connecting two microphones in the Queen's study (they are not golden, as some people think) through the King's Lynn exchange to London.

World-wide link

THE Royal broadcast will be the culmination of a world-wide link up—The Queen's Inheritance.

The other day I stood in a tiny basement studio at Broadcasting House which contained an aluminium panel no bigger than a fair-sized home radio. With its 16 control knobs, it will be used by Producer Laurence Gilliam on Christmas afternoon to blend and separate with split-second accuracy the messages pouring in by radio and recordings from nearly a hundred different sources.

Among them will be voices from Korea and Malaya, from a Comet in flight, from the Queen Mary in the Atlantic, from Hong Kong, Malta, Ceylon, India, and Canada. Jamaican boys in Kingston will be heard, and—most remote of all—weather expects on Campbell Island south of New Zealand.

Fair shares

WHO can blame the grown-ups for borrowing 1066 and All That from Children's TV? Reginald Arkell's glorious skit on the school history books will be seen on Christmas night.

Producer Michael Westmore tells me that he originally intended a cut version for children only on December 27; but the Programme Chiefs, recalling its immense success five years ago, felt that it would be a pity if anyone missed it. But children will still have their version on December 27.

Christmas fairy

A 15-YEAR-OLD Manchester schoolgirl, Joyce Palin, will play Christmas Fairy in the Cameo Cartoon of that name in Children's Hour on Boxing Day. She will be joined by Geoffrey Seale, a Wigan schoolboy of the same age, in a story of two children who live in a forest with their grandfather.

Pupils from a grammar school near Sale, Cheshire, will sing carols, and the BBC Northern Orchestra will play London street cries of 200 years ago.

Dinner is served

BEARDED Philip Harben, the radio and TV chef, will be heard on the Home wavelengths on Christmas morning as he cooks a dinner at his London home for two children and a lonely stranger.

TIM MARCHES ON

Millions have heard the Golden Voice

DURING the next few weeks someone will pick up the telephone, dial TIM, and become the 450-millionth person to listen to the voice of the Post Office Speaking Clock telling the time, correct to within one-tenth of a second.

It was on July 1, 1936 that the service started. Then it was limited to London, but now telephone subscribers in 18 of the larger towns throughout the country can dial for the time. Plans have been made to extend the service to still more towns.

The voice that is heard making the announcements is that of Miss Ethel M. Cain, who in 1935 was a 26-year-old London telephonist at the Victoria exchange.

The Post Office had held a country-wide competition to discover the "Girl with the Golden Voice" who was to make the records for the Speaking Clock. The finals of the competition were held in London and the judges—Mr. John Masefield, Dame Sybil Thorndike, Lord Iliffe, Mr. Stuart Hibberd, and Mrs. E. D. Atkinson of Burley-in-Wharfedale, who had been chosen as representing the perfect telephone subscriber—unanimously gave their verdict to Miss Cain.

SEVERE TEST

The test had certainly been severe, for the judges were looking for a voice that was "impersonal, as detached as the song of a bird, without trace of over-emphasis or personal advertisement, with nothing of the theatrical, and free from accent."

Since then Miss Cain has married and become Mrs. Baillet, but she works as an actress under the name of Jane Cain.

Two Speaking Clocks, one at the Holborn exchange in London and the other in Liverpool, provide the service, and all calls are connected to one or other of these instruments. To provide against the chance of a breakdown there is a reserve clock at each centre; but it was only after 13 years of working 24 hours a day that the original clock at Holborn needed its first overhaul.

The accuracy of the clock is compared every hour with the time signal from the Observatory at London or Edinburgh, and if there should be any error exceeding one-twentieth of a second a

correction is automatically applied.

The clock has a set of four glass discs on which Miss Cain recorded the words and phrases which make up the announcement of the time. These discs are not like gramophone records, as speech from them is reproduced by focusing a beam of light onto one of the tracks and allowing the light that passes through to fall onto a photo-electric cell. There is no ordinary needle to cause wear, and the records should be practically everlasting.

ALWAYS AVAILABLE

It is possible for 200 subscribers to listen at the same time. The clock is not affected by any cuts in the public electricity supply, for if the voltage falls below a certain level it automatically switches over to its own batteries.

This highly ingenious piece of apparatus was designed and constructed by Post Office engineers at their research station at Dollis Hill, in North London, and it was here that the records were made.

Although they have never been used, Miss Cain also recorded the time on the 24-hour basis so that we were ready to change over if we ever adopted the system of saying "13 hours" for 1 p.m., "14 hours" for 2 p.m., and so on.

FOR THIN AIR

A new type of breathing apparatus may be used by the British climbers when they attempt to scale Everest next spring.

Mr. Thomas Bourdillon of Quainton, Buckinghamshire, is making experiments with an oxygen container and valve system designed to recover the oxygen from the carbon dioxide exhaled by the men, so that it can be used over and over again.



Father Christmas takes off

Father Christmas forsakes his reindeer sleigh for a B.O.A.C. airliner. He is a member of the crew.

Nature Study—a new and practical approach to the observation of animals and birds is encouraged by introducing children to

DOG

- The identification of each breed and recording when seen.

SPOTTING

- Instructive outdoor activity.
- Encourages kindness to animals.

The first step to an intimate knowledge of animal life.

A leaflet has been prepared to enable observers to begin this absorbing occupation. Available free in bundles of 50 to teachers and youth leaders from

EDUCATION (J) DEPARTMENT

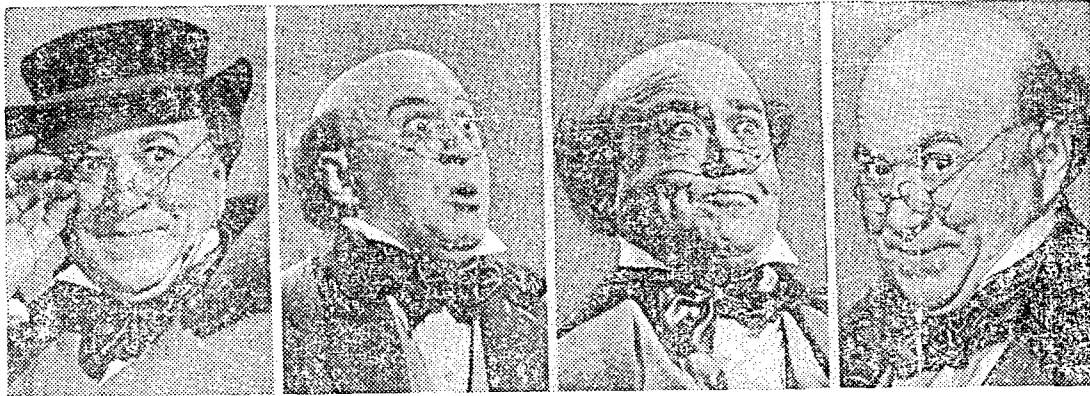
NATIONAL CANINE DEFENCE LEAGUE

10, Seymour Street, London, W.1. (30c)

CUT
OUT
THIS
ADVT.

AND HAND TO YOUR TEACHER WHO WILL ARRANGE
FOR LEAFLETS TO BE SENT TO YOUR SCHOOL

Mr PICKWICK & Co IN THE PICTURE



James Hayter is Mr. Pickwick to the life

MY copy of Dickens's Pickwick Papers (writes Eric Gillett) contains 928 pages, with 57 chapters and 98 characters. That gives some idea of the problem facing a film producer and director who decide to put on the screen one of the most popular works in the English language.

George Minter's production, directed by Noel Langley, who has written the screenplay, lasts one hour and 49 minutes. It is a cleverly-directed version, which concentrates on the contest between Mr. Samuel Pickwick (James Hayter), as the idealist ready to see good in everything, and Alfred Jingle (Nigel Patrick), who stands for fraud and humbug of every kind.

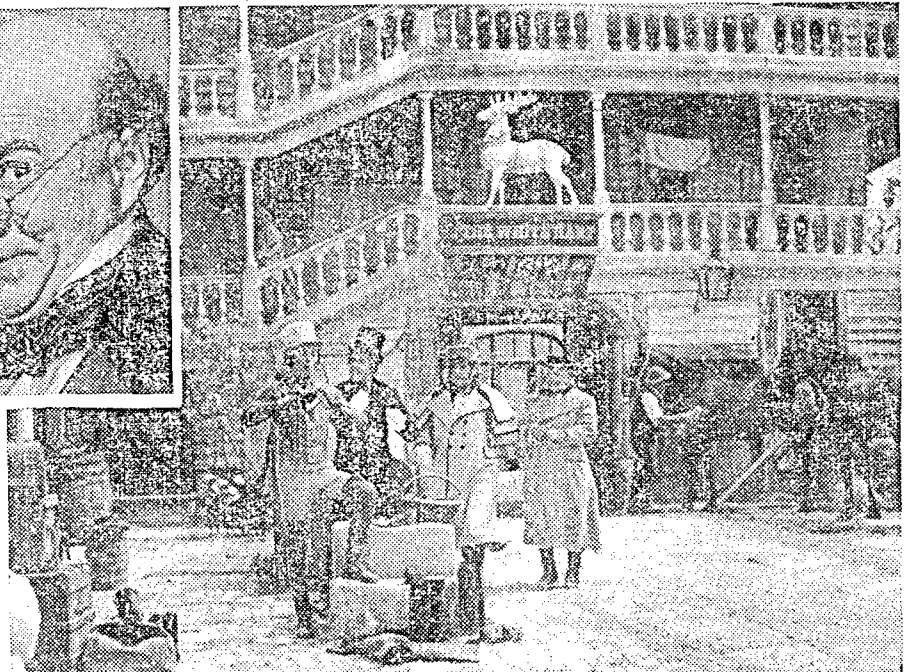
THE film, like the book, begins with a meeting of the Pickwick Club. It continues with the famous coach drive to Rochester, the meeting with Jingle, and the adventurous trip to Dingley Dell, when the Pickwickians find that they are no match for a couple of stubborn horses.

James Donald, Alexander Gauge, and Lionel Murton prove to be admirable as Winkle, Tupman, and Snodgrass. The Wardle family are just what they ought to be, with Kathleen Harrison in devastating form as Rachael Wardle, and Gerald Campion, in voice and figure, the ideal Fat Boy.

The two Dingley Dell visits are combined, and it is a pity the famous Christmas festivities are omitted, as are the Eatanswill election, Mr. Bob Sawyer and his friends, and the footmen's party at Bath.

Joyce Grenfell is in her element as Mrs. Leo Hunter reciting the celebrated Ode to an Expiring Frog, and Hermione Baddeley bridges and simpers effectively as Mrs. Bardell. Cecil Truener's Mr. Justice Stareleigh presides formidably over the great trial, in which Donald Wolfitt, as Serjeant Buzfuz, makes full use of the greatest opportunity in the film.

THE PICKWICK PAPERS largely succeeds as a film because it does not attempt too much. A more ambitious treatment would almost certainly have been less satisfactory. The director and producer aimed at a limited objective, and did not try to cram everything in. They have kept pretty closely to the original in the parts of the book they have dealt with, and they have sent me back to read the story again.



Sam Weller cleaning the boots in the yard of the White Hart Inn



Mr. Pickwick introduces Sam Weller to Mr. Winkle, Mr. Snodgrass and Mr. Tupman, fellow - members of the immortal Pickwick Club



Gerald Campion as the Fat Boy



Nigel Patrick as Mr. Jingle



Serjeant Buzfuz (Donald Wolfitt) accuses Mr. Pickwick in the dramatic court scene



A friend in need—Mr. Jingle renders first-aid

Children's Newspaper

John Carpenter House
Whitefriars · London · E.C.4
DECEMBER 27 1952

MESSAGE OF CHRISTMAS



The Adoration of the Shepherds,
by Luca Della Robbia

Peace on the earth, good-will to men,
From heaven's all gracious King";
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.

CHRISTMAS comes once again with its joyful reminder that the spirit of goodwill towards all men does not grow threadbare with the years. Age and youth, parents and children, nation and nation, are all one in wishing happiness to mankind everywhere.

The message of Christmas is one of glad tidings: that the Babe born in Bethlehem did found a kingdom which must one day triumph in human affairs.

Christmas is for us all a renewal of faith in an everlasting kingdom of truth, happiness, and love.

Under the Editor's Table

Hurling is a popular sport in Scotland. A sort of Highland fling.

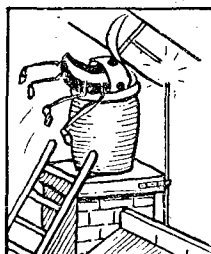
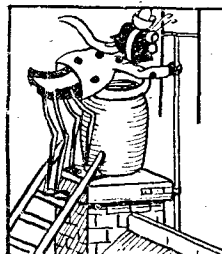
We are a nation of lookers-on, says a correspondent. Except when we are listening-in.

A cactus plant makes a good Christmas present. It has its points.

The chief thing needed in bird-watching is patience. And birds.

Skating is a fascinating pastime. Many fall for it.

BILLY BEETLE



PETER PUCK
WANTS TO
KNOW

If Christmas
trees grow in
popularity

A judge thinks nagging may do some people good. There is a lot to be said for it.

The Editor's Table

Leaders are still wanted

THERE is still a great lack of leaders for youth clubs. An appeal for more of them was made the other day by the Secretary of the London Federation of Boys' Clubs, who said: "The whole success of any youth club rests primarily on the right type of leader, and volunteers with the right qualities are not coming forward."

Volunteers do not necessarily have to be young men, an official of the federation told the C.N. The main thing is that they should have the gift of getting on with boys and girls, and be still fairly active.

All who give of their spare time to help in the running of youth clubs do noble work.

No bones for Fido

IT is hard to be hard on Christmas Day, but there is a moment when we have to be, and that is when the family dog or cat looks at the remains of the turkey with an expression that plainly means: "After all your feasting can't you spare just a bone?"

Poultry bones split into knife-edge pieces, so it is dangerous to give them to animals. Every year Our Dumb Friends' League deal with hundreds of pets that are near death because of mistaken kindness.

None of us wants to leave the dog or cat out of the festivities, but let there be no poultry bones in that extra plateful of scraps.

Seasonable advice

Walk fast in snow,
In frost walk slow,
And still as you go,
Tread on your toe:
When frost and snow are both together,
Sit by the fire and spare shoe leather.

Old Devonshire Saying

HOLY NIGHT

It was the calm and silent night!
Seven hundred years and fifty-three
Had Rome been growing up to might,
And now was queen of land and sea.
No sound was heard of clashing wars;
Peace brooded o'er the hushed domain;
Apollo, Pallas, Jove, and Mars
Held undisturbed their ancient reign,
In the solemn midnight
Centuries ago.

It is the calm and silent night!
A thousand bells ring out, and throw
Their joyous peals abroad, and smite
The darkness, charmed and holy now.
The night that erst no name had worn,

To it a happy name is given;
For in that stable lay new-born
The Prince of Earth and Heaven,
In the solemn midnight
Centuries ago. *Alfred Domett*

JUST LIKE ME

Little Jesus, wast Thou shy
Once, and just so small as I?
And what did it feel to be
Out of Heaven and just like me?
Francis Thompson

THE GLORY BREAKS

O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to men on Earth;
For Christ is born of Mary;
And, gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love.

Where children pure and happy
Pray to the blessed child,
Where misery cries out to thee,
Son of the mother mild;
Where charity stands watching
And faith holds wide the door,
The dark night wakes, the glory breaks,
And Christmas comes once more. *Phillips Brooks*

MEDIEVAL CAROL

Lullay, my child, lullay,
A king upon the straw,
Why could'st thou not thy cradle bring
To some great royal hall?
Methinks the Son of Heaven's king
Should lie in bright array;
But hush thy wail, I will not fail
To sing lullay, lullay.

THE REST MAY GO

Let fortune do her worst,
whatever she makes us lose, so long as she never makes us lose our honesty and independence. *Alexander Pope*

Greetings round the world

THE seasonable wish throughout the English-speaking world is "Merry Christmas," and in the French-speaking world "Joyeux Noël." Here is the greeting expressed in ten other languages:

Czech Veselé Vánoce	Italian Buon Natale
Dutch Vrolijk Kerstmis	Polish Wesolych Swiat
Finnish Hauskaa Joulua	Portuguese Um Feliz Natal
German Fröhliche Weihnachten	Spanish Feliz Natividad
Hungarian Boldog Karacsony Unnep	Swedish God Jul

In every language it means Peace on Earth and Goodwill to all Men!

Second to none

BRITISH nursing is second to none in the world, said Lord Horder the other day. Deprive a doctor or surgeon of the help of the trained nurse, he continued, and you might as well take away his right hand.

This distinguished medical man points out that nursing is not the mere handmaid of medicine—it is a part of medicine. For in these times medicine has become so dependent on the nurse's skill, it is essential that she should be taught why the doctor does things, as well as how to do them. "The days of the 'robot nurse' are over," he declared.

Modern nurses are among the finest people in our community. All girls who choose to join them find themselves in one of the most honoured of all callings.

Thirty Years Ago

THE pessimists quite forget that, if our public debt is gigantically greater than the public debt of 1822, we have machines and contrivances which our ancestors, who shouldered their great debt so heroically, never possessed.

We shall pull through; and a hundred years hence our population and our revenue will appear insignificant to our descendants, among whom, of course, there will be many pessimists lamenting the good old times of 1922!

From the Children's Newspaper,
December 30, 1922

THINGS SAID

DON'T call it Xmas. Christmas is the festival of Christ—not of X. *Vicar of Bradfield, St. George, Suffolk*

BECAUSE they have been born into this age of speed and realise more fully its dangers, the children of today must accept the task of teaching adults the principles of safety on the roads. *Chief Constable of Monmouthshire*

YOU can't think rationally on an empty stomach, and a whole lot of people can't do it on a full one either. *Lord Reith*

I SHOULD like to see a system by which for every law passed there would be one, or even two, repealed. *Mr. D. Heathcoat-Amory, Minister of Pensions*

A SAINT is not a person who necessarily does anything unusually well, but one who does an ordinary thing extraordinarily well. *Archdeacon of Bedford*

THE winning or losing of a championship is not a sign of a nation's greatness or weakness. *Viscount Templewood, President of the Lawn Tennis Association*

Every modern convenience

MANY have been the warnings about the undue influence of television on our lives; but none have foretold that the television set might affect the construction of houses.

Yet it has happened in the U.S., where an architect has designed a house with a television set as its central feature. The set is on a revolving turntable and can be seen from the living room, the dining room, the kitchen (through a glass wall), and even from the main bedroom (focused through an opening in the wall). It is said that such a house meets a real need of housewives, who always seem to be at work in another room when the programmes are being televised.

JUST AN IDEA

As Charles Dickens wrote: Many Merrie Christmases, many Happy New Years. Unbroken friendships, great accumulations of cheerful recollections and affections on Earth and Heaven for us all.



OUR HOMELAND

Boys of Chetham's Hospital, Manchester, rehearse a carol

The Children's Newspaper, December 27, 1952

7

JOHN COTTON OF THE TWO BOSTONS

THE Revd. John Cotton is better remembered in the U.S.A.—where he died in December just 300 years ago—than in England, where he spent the first 49 years of his life. For he was one of the great American pioneers, one of that gallant band who sailed in the wake of the Mayflower to start life afresh in a new country rather than suffer religious persecution in the country of his birth.

John Cotton was born in 1584 at Derby, where his father was a lawyer, and was only 13 when he left Derby School for Cambridge University.

He had already shown signs of becoming a brilliant scholar, and his university career bore out that promise. After taking a degree he remained to become first a fellow of Emmanuel College and then Dean. He had spent 16 happy years at Cambridge when he accepted the living of that most famous of all Lincolnshire churches, St. Botolph's, Boston.

The people of Boston soon took this kindly scholar to their hearts, even if some of his congregation did admit to dozing during his two-hour sermons. But Cotton's 20 years at Boston were not free from trouble.

PLEA TO THE KING

His Puritan views were well received by his flock, but not by the bishops, and in 1613 he was suspended from office for a short time. He would probably have run into further trouble if the Bishop of Lincoln, disagreeing with his views but admiring him as a man, had not pleaded with the king to leave him in peace.

But no bishop, however friendly, could help him when the newly-appointed archbishop began his rigorous campaign to stamp out Puritanism in 1633. Advised by the Earl of Dorset that he was likely to be arrested for not conforming strictly to the Prayer Book, Cotton resigned his living and prepared to escape with his wife to Holland.

Finding that the ports were being watched, he hid in London for a while. Then, in disguise, he made a dash for the Kent coast and was rowed out under cover of darkness to join a ship on which his wife and 200 other refugees were sailing for New England.

Not until the ship was out of sight of land did he discard his

disguise, and not until many months afterwards did he learn that in his absence he had been fined £50.

The ship reached the New England coast in September 1633, after a voyage of nearly two months, 13 years after the arrival of the Mayflower. Cotton was warmly welcomed at Boston, which had been named after his old home town by some of his former congregation three years earlier. Soon he was playing a big part in the development of the town which grew into the fine city standing there today.

INTOLERANT LAWS

Not all of his decisions were wise or just; indeed, some of the religious laws he helped to impose were just as intolerant as those he had left England to escape. In his religious life the cheerful scholar, who tried to spend 12 hours a day in reading and writing, became a stern, unbending Puritan.

But for all his mistakes he did much that was good. Not for nothing was he called the Patriarch, or Father, of New England. The establishment of America's first university, Harvard, where his three sons were educated, owed much to his enthusiasm for education.

The people of Boston lost a friend when John Cotton died, and he is still remembered there as one who helped to lay the foundations of their city and country. Nor is he quite forgotten in the Lincolnshire Boston. In St. Botolph's Church there is a brass plate to his memory on the wall of the Cotton Chapel, which is named in his honour.

The Safe Way

WITH the present big demand for CN the only way of making sure of your copy each Wednesday is to place an order with your newsagent.

Fashions change in Africa

From the looms of Zande, some 1000 miles inland from Port Sudan, the first yards of calico have come off the machines to clothe one of the most remote tribes in Equatorial Africa.

This first delivery of cloth woven by African weavers represents a change of fashion not only in clothes but in custom, and is another step forward in the re-shaping of Africa.

Two years ago thick bush covered the site now occupied by the brick-built mill containing £125,000 worth of spinning and weaving machinery. Alongside is a cotton-seed oil extraction plant which feeds a new soap factory with raw material.

VILLAGERS MOVE

The Azande people have always lived in scattered villages in the forest, and they had to be persuaded by the Sudan authorities to move into areas where the cotton could be grown.

But their first cotton crop was a great success, though some of the people attributed it to the power of the witch doctors, who attended the opening of the mill clad in leopards' tails and bones. The cotton mill works two shifts, one starting before sunrise as the "knocker up" pounds on the hollowed-out tree trunk in the village square.

Already the Azandes are aware that the cotton mill and the soap factory are bringing new resources into their remote tribal life, and that before long they will have better homes, more schools, and a hospital.

NEW TRAFFIC LIGHTS

A new Swedish invention is designed to ensure greater safety in passing lorries on narrow roads.

When a driver wishes to overtake a lorry he sounds his horn. A microphone on the vehicle in front picks up the sound and amplifies it by loudspeaker in the driver's cab.

Then, if all is clear, the lorry driver switches on a flashing green light at the rear, which means, "You may pass." Should it be unsafe for the following vehicle to overtake, the switch can operate a warning red indicator.



Toy-makers

Since 1922, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Lucas of Nottingham (above) have made over 10,000 toys for poor children. On Christmas morning, with the city's Lord Mayor, they visit Nottingham hospitals to distribute them. Miss Yootha Rose (right) makes toys of carved and painted wood in her studio in Kingston, Surrey. Some of them have been bought by Queen Mary as presents for Prince Charles and Princess Anne.



RUBBER-LINED RESERVOIR

A reservoir at Mill Hill, County Durham, was originally built to store 24 million gallons of water, but owing to subsidence through local mining, it holds only a quarter of that amount.

Now it is hoped to restore the reservoir to its full capacity by lining it with rubber.

The first stage of the experiment began last May by lining the inlet valve chamber into which water is normally brought before it is released into four surrounding compartments. Water was then run into the chamber and observation kept on the level maintained. Tests were also made for leaks by an electronic process.

Finest quality rubber strips, three feet wide and of quarter-inch thickness, are used, and these should give waterproof service for 40 years or more.

After the chamber has been lined for some time, the most important tests will be made—to de-

termine whether the rubber has any appreciable effect on the taste of the water.

The Sunderland and South Shields Water Company's engineers engaged in the lining of the reservoir boast that they supply the finest water in the country. Any change in taste would not enhance their reputation with the local population.

Experts say that although the rubber lining will be expensive, the cost of a new reservoir would be much greater—possibly in the region of £450,000.

PRESS-BUTTON GUIDES

Special guides to London which may be available to visitors during Coronation week are push-button coloured maps. To find a street, a railway station, or even certain notable buildings, the inquirer will simply press the appropriately-marked button; the place will then be indicated on the map.

Empire Mosaic—23

by Ridgway

DISCOVERY OF NATAL

The South African Province of Natal was so named by Vasco da Gama because it was on Christmas Day 1497 that the Portuguese navigator sighted it on his voyage to India.

SANDRINGHAM 1932

It was 20 years ago that King George the Fifth gave his first Christmas broadcast to his peoples throughout the Empire.

CHRISTMAS ISLAND

Captain Cook discovered the largest atoll (some 220 square miles) in the Pacific on December 25, 1777, and accordingly named it Christmas Island. Britain annexed it in 1888.

HISTORIC RIDE

When news reached Cape Town that the Kaffirs had invaded the Colony on Christmas Day, 1834, Colonel Harry Smith rode 700 miles in six days across rough country to Graham's Town to organise successful resistance.

NAHUM TATE'S CAROL

One of the most popular of the carols we shall all be singing this week was written by a Poet Laureate who was born just 300 years ago. While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night was the work of Nahum Tate, who was born in Dublin in 1652.

Despite his title, Nahum Tate was an indifferent poet and his claim to fame rests on his translations of the Psalms in collaboration with Nicholas Brady, Vicar of Richmond. These were published in 1696 under the title: A New Version of the Psalms of David fitted to the Tunes used in Churches.

Dedicated to William III, who gave permission for it to be used in such churches "as shall think fit to receive it," the new psalter gradually became popular; two at least of Tate's contributions have retained their popularity to this day—Through all the changing scenes of life (psalm 34), and As pants the hart for cooling streams (psalm 42).

Nahum Tate died in poverty at Southwark in 1715, a few weeks after the new king, George I, had transferred the laureateship to Nicholas Rowe.

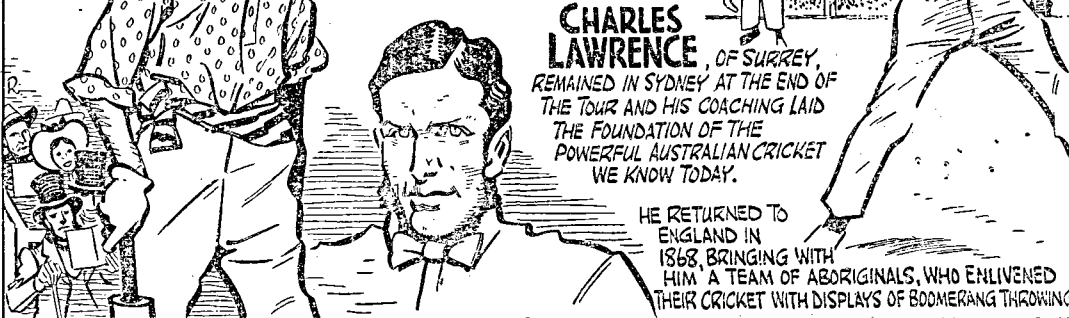
SHOCKS AT THE WINDOW

These two stories of odd adventures come from Rhodesia.

A junior boy at Fairbridge College near Bulawayo got a black eye in a most unusual way. He went to close his dormitory window during a severe storm and was hit by a hailstone as big as a hen's egg.

It was opening another window that gave a workman a shock at Dutchman's Pool, where a new dam is being built. Talking over his shoulder, he threw open the window of a hut and found himself looking into the eyes of a leopard, a few inches away. He decided that there was enough fresh air in the hut and promptly shut the window again.

IT WAS ON CHRISTMAS EVE 91 YEARS AGO THAT THE FIRST ENGLISH CRICKETERS TO TOUR AUSTRALIA LANDED AT MELBOURNE.



Sporting Flashbacks

A FEATURE OF THIS TOUR WAS THAT ON THE FIELD EACH PLAYER WORE A DISTINCTIVE COLOURED HELMET AND SASH, DETAILS OF WHICH WERE PRINTED BESIDE HIS NAME ON THE SCORECARD, SO THAT SPECTATORS COULD IDENTIFY HIM READILY.

CHARLES LAWRENCE OF SURREY, REMAINED IN SYDNEY AT THE END OF THE TOUR AND HIS COACHING LAID THE FOUNDATION OF THE POWERFUL AUSTRALIAN CRICKET WE KNOW TODAY.

HE RETURNED TO ENGLAND IN 1868, BRINGING WITH HIM A TEAM OF ABORIGINES, WHO ENLIVENED THEIR CRICKET WITH DISPLAYS OF BOOMERANG THROWING.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY IN THE FALKLANDS

Valerie Halls, eleven-year-old daughter of an airman pilot of the ambulance plying between Falkland Islands and its Antarctic Dependencies, has sent us these notes of the Christmas she spent last year in that remote British colony.

The Falkland Islands lie just off Cape Horn on the same latitude south of the Equator as England lies north; so when you are having winter the people there are enjoying summer. But all the same it did seem very queer to celebrate Christmas on a comparatively warm day and to go to bed while it was still light.

Our Christmas dinner was a little different, too. We did not have turkey as we do at home, but lamb, a little lamb just three months old that was born in the spring. We exchanged presents with our friends, but there was no Christmas tree; in fact, there are very few trees at all on the islands. However, Mummy managed to make something out of cardboard and paper that looked passably like a tree, so we were not too disappointed.

Christmas time is also the time for our long summer holiday from school; we broke up about four days before Christmas and we were

not due to go back until the middle of February. We were living in Port Stanley, which is the capital, so my nine-year-old brother Clive and I were pleased when we had an invitation to go to spend some of our holiday on one of the sheep farms, about 40 miles away.

There are no roads in any part of the islands except in Port Stanley, so we had to go by horse. This was adventure indeed.

We had to take a guide with us, of course, as it is very easy to get lost.

We travelled first over a very stony mountain; then we came down into the valley among the peat bogs. The way the horses get across these is really amazing; they just smell the ground and they

TRAILING MOSQUITOES

To discover how far mosquitoes travel from their breeding-ground, scientists in Florida added radioactive phosphorus to the water in which mosquito larvae were hatching out.

Later, when the mosquitoes had grown up, their presence in other areas could be checked with geiger counters. The record flight so far tracked is one of 25 miles.

know where it is too soft for them.

We then had to cross a stream in which the tide was quite low. Clive enjoyed this part of the trip most, I believe; he said he felt just like Roy Rogers, and wished the water had been just a little higher so that he could have swum his horse across. We had two more streams to cross. We next came to ground that was drier and we saw a great many sheep here.

At three-thirty in the afternoon our destination, a little township, was in sight—the manager's house, the shepherds' houses, all gathered together in a little cluster. We could see, too, the windmills on the top of the generating sheds whirling round in the high wind, generating electricity and pumping water. We had a scrumptious tea in the manager's house—strawberries from the garden and cream from the cows we had seen grazing just in front of the house.

We certainly chose the right time for our visit, as it was sheepshearing time. We spent two weeks here and were so very reluctant to leave; we had helped with almost every job on the farm, we had enjoyed some truly wonderful food, and we had made some good friends.

ZIRCONIUM HAS COME TO STAY

Zirconium; nearly as strong as steel and as resistant to corrosion as any other metal, was discovered as long ago as 1789; but little use was made of it until recently because it was difficult to extract from its natural ores.

Metallurgists who did try to make pure zirconium found that, in the last stages of processing, it was very apt to blow up. But now this trouble has been overcome.

Less than four years ago commercial zirconium was valued at about £200 a pound. Now it only costs about £5 a pound, and if the supply of it goes on increasing the price will fall even lower. It is more abundant than nickel, copper, and many other metals.

Telling the story of its early manufacture, the chief scientist of the American firm making zirconium confessed that some of the first samples despatched to prospective customers blew up in the post! But that was before the lesson of making the metal absolutely pure had been learned. Now zirconium is safe enough to use for surgical plates and other delicate purposes.

ELECTRONIC MOUSE REMEMBERS

A man-made mouse which appears to think has been produced at the Bell Telephone Laboratories in America.

It is really a bar magnet with three wheels, whiskers made of copper wire, and a simple contact mechanism fixed underneath—plus an electronic brain. It can find its own way past obstacles or through a simple maze. Once it has mastered the journey it "remembers" the various twists and turns if started on the same course again.

On one test the mouse took just over two minutes to make its first trip through a maze covering the top of an ordinary desk. It "remembered" the journey for all succeeding trips, which it covered in an average time of ten seconds.

MARCO POLO'S AMAZING ADVENTURES—the story of an epic journey (7)



Marco left Zayton in a Chinese ship and sailed 1500 miles south-west to the Kingdom of Champa, in present-day Indo-China. He was fascinated by the work of the Champa craftsmen—inlaid and chased in ebony. The civilisation of this region was due to Indian influence, having been brought here by settlers whose descendants built the wonderful city of Angkor, now an impressive ruin in the jungle.

The voyage continued through Singapore Strait to Sumatra, where Marco saw what he called a "unicorn." He described it as having hair like a buffalo, elephant's feet, a wild boar's head, and a horn in the middle of its forehead. At the sight of this ferocious creature he disbelieved the European tales about unicorns having such a love of perfume that a scented lady could harmlessly catch one in her lap!

In Sumatra, too, he discovered the secret of the preserved bodies sometimes sold in Europe as those of miniature men from India. He found they were really monkeys (gibbons) with their hair removed, except their beards, their bodies painted, and feet reduced to human proportions. Other things that amazed him were the toddy palm, from which the natives obtained "wine," and the "flour tree"—the sago palm.

After more adventures Marco reached Ceylon, where his task may have been to obtain relics of Buddha for Kublai Khan, who believed they had magic power. Marco was probably the first European to hear the true story of Buddha. He was shown "relics"; some of Buddha's hair, two of his teeth (which were as big as an elephant's!), and his begging bowl. For these the King of Ceylon wanted an enormous price.

Did Marco obtain the relics to take back to his master? See next week's instalment

The Children's Newspaper, December 27, 1952

A popular author's thrilling new serial of Queen Anne's day

THE SILKEN SECRET

by Geoffrey Trease

Charles Mount, a Derbyshire silk-manufacturer in Queen Anne's reign, mysteriously disappears in London. His niece Celia gets a message to meet him on Hampstead Heath. Fearing a trap, her friends, young Dick Arlington and his master, Pharamus Fazeley, an elderly but adventurous journalist, decide to go with her.

3. Adventure at Hampstead

It was a short night's sleep for Dick. No sooner had he dropped off, it seemed, than Fazeley was beside him, gently shaking his shoulder. It was scarcely dawn.

"Coffee," said Fazeley. "Nothing like it at this hour. Get your clothes on and come down."

Five minutes later Dick joined him at the table. The far end was littered with closely-written sheets of paper.

"There's the last issue of The Courier," said Fazeley with a wave of his hand. "I sat up most of the night." Dick stared at him. Fazeley looked as dapper as usual. His lined face was no paler.

He stood up, wiping his lips. "Pass me that other pistol, Dick, and I'll show you how to load it. If you're old enough to come on this excursion, I suppose you are old enough to be trusted with firearms."

Dick listened carefully to Fazeley's instructions.

A HACKNEY coach was already standing outside Mr. Cogwell's house when they got there, and the footman was helping to lift various boxes down the steps and to strap them in position over the back wheels.

The old merchant was fussing about in the hall, and maids were running up and down stairs on last-minute errands. Miss Celia Mount, mantled and hooded against the early-morning air, seemed quite the calmest member of the household.

"I hope we are doing right," Mr. Cogwell kept muttering. "I don't like it. I don't feel happy at all."

"But why not?" The girl's grey-green eyes were dancing. "I feel sure Uncle Charles sent that message. And—even if he didn't—what harm can I come to, with these gentlemen to take care of me?"

"Do not worry about her," Fazeley urged him. "We shan't leave her until we see her safely in her uncle's keeping."

They took their seats, and the coach rumbled away.

"Mr. Cogwell is a kind old man," said Miss Mount decidedly, "but he fusses. One might think I was a child."

"Hampstead is a wild place," Fazeley pointed out gently. "I fancy that if Mr. Mount were better acquainted with these parts he might have hesitated before naming it as a meeting-place."

"Uncle Charles never stops to think of such things. Wild!" she echoed. "You forget I come from America. That is wild, if you like. Everyone in London exclaims when they hear I am going to live in Derbyshire. So wild, they say! Because there are some rocks and caves, and the post takes several days from London. Is it no wilder than that, Mr. Fazeley?"

"I have never been there, Miss Mount—"

"You must call me Celia. I am not so old. People in London are much too polite and stiff, I think."

"Thank you, Celia," Fazeley smiled. "I wish my newspaper were continuing. Your impressions of London would have given me good material. No, I have never seen the wonders of Derbyshire."

"What wonders are there?"

"Oh, sparkling caverns, rivers that vanish, mountains that shiver, bottomless pits—"

"Uncle Charles hasn't told me about any of these! He only says they make good cloth there."

"Every man to his own interest. I confess myself that, as I get older, these marvels appeal to me less. I think I would rather have a few days fishing in those trout-filled rivers Izaak Walton wrote about."

"How dull!" The girl made a face. "Don't you think so, Dick?"

"The caverns sound more interesting, Miss Celia."

"Don't call me miss!" she ordered. "You're not a servant, are you?"

DICK was embarrassed. Fazeley came to his rescue. "Certainly not," he said warmly. "Dick has been my assistant on The London Courier, but it has just ceased publication. What he will do now—what I shall do myself—is still quite unsettled."

The coach rumbled on over the cobbles and gradually the densely-

packed city gave place to green suburbs. A damp, silvery mist hung over everything. Houses loomed as dim grey shapes.

Just the kind of morning, Dick thought to himself, for highwaymen to be busy! It was good to feel the bulk of the pistol heavy against his thigh.

Celia showed no sign of nervousness. She chatted briskly all the time, asking questions about The Courier and what Dick had done before. He found himself pouring out his whole life story: the death of his father, long ago, at Blenheim, and the more recent death of his mother; his decision to leave his little country grammar school at Abbotsbridge and seek his fortune; and the past few happy weeks with Fazeley.

"And you don't know what you will do now? I shall tell Uncle Charles about you. Would you like to come up to Derbyshire and make silk?"

"It's—it's very kind of you, Celia." The girl's direct methods left him rather breathless. "I'll have to wait and see what happens."

"You do," she said graciously. "But I know Uncle said he was always on the look-out for what he calls 'a likely lad.' I don't know what that means, but I'm sure you're likely if anyone is."

"Thank you," Dick muttered, choking quietly in his corner.

It was now nearly eight o'clock and the steep slope of Hampstead rose in front. Celia began to show the first signs of nervousness. But it was not due to any fear lest the message had been a false one; it was doubt as to what her uncle would say when she arrived with an escort of strangers.

Fazeley guessed the trouble. The horses were having great difficulty as the hill grew steeper, and he seized on this as a convenient excuse.

"I fancy it would be better if Dick and I got out and walked," he said. "We might as well say our good-byes now. We shall keep close behind the coach until we see you safely into Mr. Mount's care."

So their farewells were quickly said, and Fazeley and Dick got out, telling the coachman to drive on.

"I thought you were so anxious to meet Mr. Mount?" said Dick with a puzzled look.

"So I was," admitted Fazeley ruefully. "But even if it is Charles Mount waiting for Celia on the Heath, he does not look the sort of man to pour out explanations to strangers at the roadside. And if it is not he who sent the message, but somebody else—" The little journalist paused significantly.

"What if it isn't?" Dick prompted him.

"Then I would sooner meet him—or them—on equal terms, out in

Continued on page 19

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- 4 Who invented printing from movable type?
- 5 What is a junk?
- 6 Salient means prohibited, productive, or prominent?
- 7 What were the gifts brought to the Infant Jesus by the wise men from the east?
- 8 What was the source of Samson's great strength?

Answers on page 12

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SPORTS SHORTS

RAY DORKING, 16-year-old East Ham boy, represented his school at football and boxing, and played cricket for the East Ham Boys' team; now he is one of the most promising junior table tennis players in the south. He has won several titles already this season and is playing for Essex in the Junior County Championship.

WITH an eye on the 1956 Olympics at Melbourne, the Amateur Swimming Association have announced that more than £5000 is to be spent on a four-year training plan. Most of the money will be spent on special coaching of young swimmers, and in staging matches against Continental teams.

YOUNG man who is not following in father's footsteps is 17-year-old Billy Gillespie of Glasgow, son of the former Scottish international footballer. Billy is one of the young lawn tennis players who have been receiving special coaching in London from Dan Maskell.

FOR the second year running the Highgate Diving Club have won the Melville Clark Trophy, awarded to the club with the highest total of points gained in national and district diving championships during a season. The trophy is a memorial to the late Gordon Melville Clark, former Olympic diver.

PAKISTAN has arranged to send 17-year-old Hanif Mohammed, the fine batsman already mentioned in C.N., to London next summer for an extensive six-week coaching course by Alf Gover, former Surrey and England cricketer. Four other Pakistan players will be in the party.

A **YOUNG PLAYERS' FUND** was recently opened by Viscount Templewood, president of the Lawn Tennis Association. Object of the fund is to coach about six selected young players and also to train them for a career which could be combined with tennis.

KEITH MILLER and Ray Lindwall will probably join a select band of cricketers this winter. At the end of the first Test Match against South Africa Miller wanted five wickets, and Lindwall 160 runs, to complete a Test double (100 wickets and 1000 runs). Only five other players have achieved this feat.

THE games that most of us play at Christmas are of the party variety, but the 150 men and girls who are attending the Christmas holiday coaching courses at Lilleshall Hall and Bisham Abbey will be occupied in more strenuous ones. At these courses organised by the Central Council of Physical Recreation there are five or six hours' instruction daily in Rugby, fencing, lacrosse, hockey, and other sports.

CONGRATULATIONS to Leslie Driffield, of Leeds, who returned from India recently after winning the world's amateur billiards championship. Not since 1935 has a British player won the title. Robert Marshall (Australia), the former champion, had held the title since 1936.

LAWN tennis balls without nap disappeared in 1885; now they are being re-introduced. A new type of ball which will last much longer than the cloth-covered ball has been produced for the Lawn Tennis Association. It has been designed for practice and play on hard courts, and will be threepence cheaper than ordinary balls.

TWO of the longest standing English athletic records were broken recently when 22 of Britain's long-distance runners attacked the 40-mile and 50-mile records, made in 1884 and 1913 respectively. D. E. Reynolds beat the 40-mile record by 27½ minutes in 4 hours 19 minutes 20.4 seconds, and the 50-mile record by 43½ minutes in 5 hours 30 minutes 22.4 seconds.

THE SILKEN SECRET

(Continued from page 9)

the open," said Fazeley grimly, "than cooped up in that coach with the girl!"

THEY were now on the summit of the hill. They had to quicken their steps to keep the coach in view, a dim grey shape lurching from side to side. The last houses fell behind them. The road ran across the open Heath, which was dotted with trees and furze-bushes.

"He's slowing down," said Fazeley suddenly.

"Yes. Look, sir, there's another carriage drawn up ahead. I can see two men. Oh, I think one's only the postilion."

"We'll make sure."

He led the way forward, using the cover of the furze-bushes.

The hackney coach came to a standstill, and cheerful voices rang through the morning air.

"Good - morning, Uncle Charles!"

"Ah, good lass! I thought it were you!"

Fazeley and Dick stood behind

the screen of furze-bushes while the boxes were transferred to the chaise. "So that's that," said Dick, feeling a little flat as the door slammed, the postilion climbed into the saddle of the left-hand horse, and the Mounts drove happily away.

It seemed a feeble and unsatisfactory ending to the affair.

SUDDENLY Fazeley became tense and flung out an arm to point.

Three figures were flitting through the bushes on the opposite side of the road. They seemed to be in a great hurry, yet anxious not to be seen. It was as though they had been trying to overtake the coach before, and were now transferring their attention to the chaise. Certainly the coach seemed to be of no further interest to them, for, as it came slowly rumbling back, they made no attempt to stop it.

"Come on, Dick," said Fazeley, starting after them. "I think we shall have to run!"

To be continued

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GHOST-LIKE TRAFFIC

For a year bus drivers at Ashington, in Northumberland, have been confused after dark in the town centre by the impression that traffic was crossing their path when in fact no vehicles were there.

The matter had become so troublesome that a special bus tour of 14 men was made one night recently to try to solve the mystery.

The bus pulled up at a major crossing and waited for other traffic—a car and two cyclists—to pass before it proceeded. But the traffic did not materialise. It disappeared.

The explanation was given by a lighting expert of the Electricity Board. He said that because the lighting was too strong on one corner of the crossroads, such mirages of oncoming traffic were caused by a combination of angles and reflections of lit and unlit shop windows.

LONG ROUTES FOR HIKERS ACROSS BRITAIN

Long-distance routes for hikers are being planned by the National Parks Commission. One of them will start at Bude, follow the coast-line right round Cornwall and south Devon, and then continue through Somerset and Dorset.

Another is from the Flintshire coast down through the Welsh Marches to Chepstow.

RADIANCE OF ORION'S STAR CLUSTER

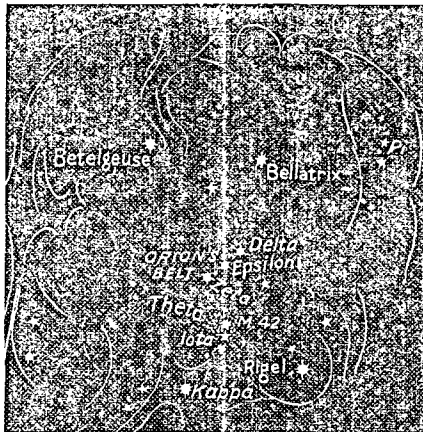
By the CN Astronomer

THE south-east sky is particularly resplendent after about six o'clock in the evening with the glories of Orion, whose seven most brilliant stars are so prominent to the left of the radiant Jupiter.

These seven stars are the chief luminaries of the constellation of Orion, but the vast cluster of Orion extends far beyond the constellation and behind groups of much nearer stars, such as the Hyades—in fact, the Orion stars extend even to the Pleiades.

This vast congregation of suns, all similar in type, inter-related, and immersed in a colossal ocean of radiant cosmic matter, is clustered into a region of our Universe or Galaxy which is between 500 and 600 light-years' journey from us. But it includes many outlying suns such as Bellatrix and those of the Pleiades which are much nearer to us, Bellatrix being about 300 light-years distant and the Pleiades averaging 325 light-years.

Our star-map can indicate only a few of the brightest of these Orion stars, which, enveloped in incandescent helium are bluish-white and at the terrific surface



The white streaks indicate the extent of the nebulosity round the great Orion Cluster

heat of 16,000 to over 23,000 degrees centigrade. They are among the hottest stars known.

The brilliant, reddish Betelgeuse is, however, not one of the Orion Cluster. It is a "giant" type of sun, totally different, and in a much earlier stage of evolution.

Betelgeuse is a solitary expanding and contracting sun which varies in immensity and reaches a diameter about 300 times greater than that of our Sun. It is much nearer than the Orion suns—19½ light-years from us.

It is Rigel that is the real giant of the Orion stars. Actually it is composed of two suns which are so immense that together they radiate about 18,000 times more light and heat than our Sun.

Though Rigel's distance of 543 light-years is the average for Orion suns, they are outlying suns, and, like Bellatrix, are far from the centre of this vast nebula, which a ray of light would take some 200 years to cross.

SWORD SCABBARD

The centre of this nebula appears to be in the region of what is popularly known as the Sword Scabbard. This is represented by the stars Iota and Theta and lesser luminaries in a line from Orion's Belt. Here the radiance is so great that the filmy bluish light can even be seen with the naked eye on any clear, moonless night.

This region has therefore long been known as a nebula, M.42.

Another dense region is that of Orion's Belt of three suns, Delta, Epsilon, and Zeta. These radiate respectively 2500, 2700, and 2000 times more light than our Sun. They are immersed in vast streams of the cosmic matter which appears as radiant nebulosity in the beautiful photographs which are obtained of this region.

Now, all this radiance has been found to be helium light reflected by the cosmic matter from the intensely brilliant suns immersed in it. But much of this matter is dark because it is unilluminated, and this dark matter reveals itself in strange silhouettes against the light areas.

G. F. M.

No. 17 of CN's Fortnightly Competitions



10 Ten-Shilling Notes for Runners-Up!

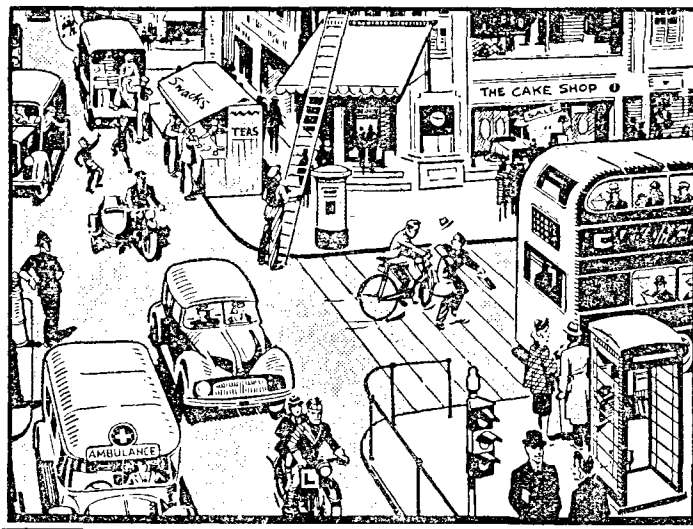
A HAPPY NEW YEAR to all our readers! Why not try to win a bicycle and start 1953 in style? There is one for a girl and one for a boy in this week's special Road Safety competition—with 10 ten-shilling notes for the runners-up.

Look at the picture below, which shows a number of serious mistakes. You should be able to find at least sixteen, but to give you a start we point out that the Zebra Crossing stripes run the wrong way. When you have found fifteen other errors, write down all sixteen neatly on a postcard or a piece of paper, and ask an adult to sign it as your own unaided work. Then attach to your entry the competition token (marked CN Token) at the foot of the back page of this issue, add your name, age, and address, and post to:

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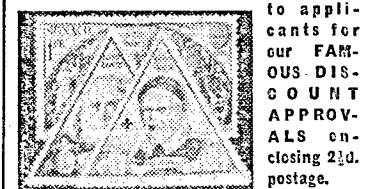
to arrive by Tuesday, January 6, 1953, the Closing Date.

All readers under 17 living in Great Britain, Northern Ireland, and the Channel Islands may enter. The two bicycles will be awarded for the neatest correct entries received, according to age. The Editor's decision is final.



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THE BRAN TUB

RIDDLE-ME-REE

My first is in Santa Claus, also in stocking;
My second's in thumping, but never in knocking;
My third's found in presents, but never in gifts;
My fourth is in staircase, also in lifts;
My fifth's in the cards which we send to our friends;
My sixth is in extremes, but never in ends;
My seventh's in mother and also in me;
My eighth is in fastening, but never in key;
My ninth is in August, but not in December;
My whole is the season we always remember

Answer next week

Striking likeness

CHRISTMAS morn has dawned again.
"John! Santa Claus *did* come," cried Jane.
"He's brought some boxing gloves for you,
And that doll I wanted, too;
And here's a table tennis set;
I'm glad that he did not forget.
But such a funny dream I had—
It seemed that he looked *just* like Dad!"

What is it?

My lord he lived in London.
My lady lived at Lynn.
My lord he sent my lady
A very nice sweet thing:
Flowers do oft enclose it,
The busy bees compose it,
Everybody knows it,
So you can now disclose it?

Answer next week

BEDTIME CORNER

Christmas mix-up

"THERE'S some parcels on the table,"
Said Mum to Sue and John,
"And by each one a label.
Please, will you stick them on?"

Now sad to say, young John
and Sue,
Whose minds were on a game,
Stuck each label on with glue
Considering not the name.

The guests arrived on Christmas Day—
And felt they'd been deceived!
The cause of their complete dismay
Was the presents they received:

Some nice cigars for Baby Ann,
A teething ring for Granny.
A powder puff for Uncle Dan.
A football for Aunt Fanny.

A cookery book for little Sam.
An airgun for his mother.
Tobacco pouch for Cousin Pam.
A hairslide for her brother.

A walking doll for Uncle Ron.
Some roller skates for Grandpa Snow—
I'd hate to be young Sue or John
When Mother gets to know!

On Christmas Eve

I SNUGGLE in my cosy bed;
The stars grow clear and bright,
And shine upon the snowy ground
With rays of silvery light.

I tuck myself inside the sheets,
And then my prayers I say.
Then think and dream of Santa Claus,
Who's riding on his sleigh.

I've asked him for a golliwog,
But I think it's only fair
That he should have a present,
too—
I've left *his* on the chair.



THE SUM THAT ADDED TO JACKO'S JOY



Jacko and Baby were thrilled when Santa Claus had a surprise for them.

From five letters

My five letters hint at a glorious spread;
Take one out and quite the reverse is said;
When another has gone, I am plump once again;
Take one more—a preposition will remain;
Now of my two letters take one still away
And I sound like a drink, but not spelled the right way.

Answer next week

BIRDS IN A PROVERB

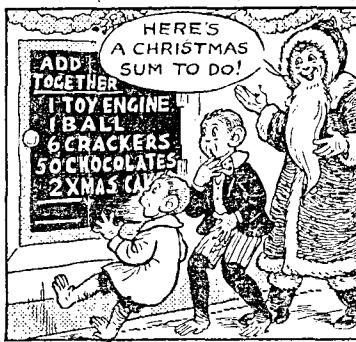
CAN you form the names of 12 birds from the letters used in this proverb? Hawk is one, for example.

MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK.

Hawk, gander, goose, tern, lark, owl, junco, meadow lark, sparrow, crow, raven, magpie.

Christmas warning

"Two letters greedy people like,"
Groaned June, "I'm beaten I confess."
"It is a riddle," Jim replied.
"The answer is, of course, X S."



But not so thrilled when they found he had set them a Christmas sum.

Christmas roses

THE beautiful Christmas Rose, one of our best-known winter flowers, is also called Black Hellebore, its root being a very dark colour.

Legend has it that this lovely flower first appeared at the command of a divine spirit to enable a little shepherdess to carry a posy to the Holy Child.

Long ago, cattle were blessed with hellebore, and the plant was also used for driving away evil spirits. Today it is grown for its beautiful blooms.

Down to earth

THE young lady was doing some last-minute Christmas shopping. "I want a present for my grandfather," she said.

"A necktie?" suggested the assistant.

"No, he has a beard."

"A pullover, perhaps?"

"No, it's a long beard."

"Carpet slippers, then," said the assistant, not to be outdone.

What's in a cracker?

A boy feels rattled
When he pulls a big cracker
With a mighty big bang
(Because it's a whacker),
And he finds there inside,
At the end of the battle
That all he has got—
Is a small baby's rattle.

CHAIN QUIZ

Solutions to the following clues are linked, the last two letters of the first answer being the first two letters of the second answer, and so on.

1. The largest island of the West Indies, now an independent republic; in 1492 Columbus saw natives smoking there, and the capital has since given its name to the finest cigars.

2. Name of German family, over 50 of whose members were famous musicians; the best-known of them all, Johann Sebastian, was one of the greatest of all composers.

3. Kind of lizard proverbial for its ability to change colour according to its surroundings; its name means "little lion."

4. Semi-precious stone, with colour veins like agate; was much used at one time for making cameos.

Answer next week

TOUGH ON HIM

THE host was trying hard to carve a tough Christmas turkey with a blunt knife.

"Did you know that James the First introduced turkey to this country?" said one of the guests as he waited for his portion.

"Yes," said the host, gritting his teeth, "and I shouldn't be a bit surprised if this was the very one be introduced."

YOUNG QUIZ—answers

- 1 An area in the Chiltern Hills. An M.P. applies for the stewardship of this area when he wishes to resign.
- 2 A mythological bird.
- 3 Badminton.
- 4 Gutenberg, about 1440 to 1450.
- 5 A Chinese sailing vessel.
- 6 Prominent.
- 7 Gold, frankincense, and myrrh.
- 8 His hair.

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

Hidden occupations. Chef, farmer, teacher, miner, driver, tailor.
From one word. Plate, late, ate, tea, eat.
Hidden places. Hungerford.
Chain Quiz. Pope, penicillin, insulin, Inverness.
Missing A's. Asia, Africa, Arabia, Austria, Australia.
Find the dog. St. Bernard.

Something missing

Each of the following four-letter words can be changed to a five-letter word by adding a letter in the middle. The added letters, in the order given, will spell the name of something that goes down well at Christmas!

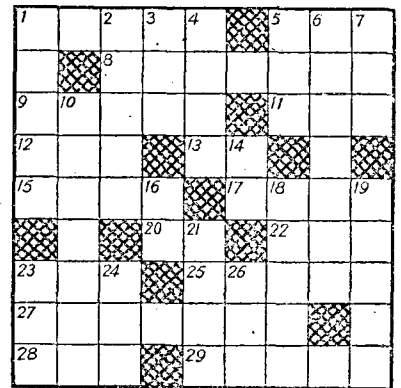
HOES MOTH PEAL MIST ALAS
LACE REAL

Answer next week

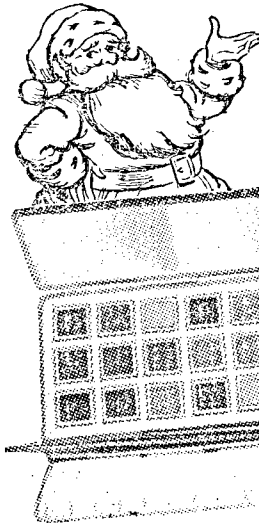
Crossword puzzle

READING ACROSS. 1 Restaurant. 5 Male sheep. 8 Form mental picture. 9 Walk pompously. 11 Newt. 12 Definite article. 13 Printer's measure. 15 Comfort. 17 Native of Scotland. 20 Teetotaler. 22 The highest card. 23 It's blue overhead. 25 Creases. 27 Irritable. 28 Advertisements. 29 Peeps.

READING DOWN. 1 Class. 2 In most grades. 3 Australian bird. 4 Surfeit. 5 Bond. 6 Deprive a clergyman of office. 7 Favourite. 10 Expressed gratitude. 14 Manuscript. 16 French for and. 18 Hiding place. 19 Trials. 21 Stumble. 23 Health resort. 24 Aye. 26 Employ. Answer next week



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